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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/438,206

11/12/1999

RIYI SHI

7024-427-PUR

9018

26813

7590

05/02/2008

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EXAMINER

HUI, SAN MING R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1617

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/02/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/438,206	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SHI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> San-ming Hui	<b>Art Unit</b> 1617	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-30,38-40,43 and 44 is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-30,38-40,43 and 44 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

Claims 22-30, 38-40, and 43-44 are pending.

In view of the decision of the Board of Patent Appeal and Interference on December 3, 2007, claims 22-29, 38, 39, and 44 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Shulman and Edwards as set forth in the previous office action mailed 2/23/2005. The outstanding double patenting rejection is withdrawn in view of the terminal disclaimer filed 11/23/2005.

In view of the suggestion of the Board of Patent Appeal and Interference in page 16 in the decision mailed 12/3/2007 with regard to claims 30, 40, and 43, the new ground of rejection is set forth herein.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 30, 40, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shulman (US Patent 4,599,354) and Edwards (US Patent 4,369,769) as applied to claims 22-29, 38, 39, and 44, and further in view of Potter.

Shulman and Edwards suggest a method of treating spinal cord injury with a PEG containing composition for pain.

Shulman and Edwards fail to teach the use of 4-aminopyridine in the method of treating spinal cord injury.

Potter et al. teaches the use of 4-aminopyridine to treat spinal cord injury (See #533).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ 4-aminopyridine along with the method suggested by Shulman and Edwards for treating spinal cord injury.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to 4-aminopyridine along with the method suggested by Shulman and Edwards for treating spinal cord injury. 4-aminopyridine is known to be useful as treatment for spinal cord injury. The polyethylene glycol containing formulation in Shulman is also known to treat spinal cord injury by reducing pain. Employing them concomitantly for treating the very same condition, spinal cord injuries, would be obvious (*In re Kerkhoven* 205 USPQ 1069).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to San-ming Hui whose telephone number is (571) 272-0626. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon 9:00 to 1:00, Tu - Fri from 9:00 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan, PhD., can be reached on (571) 272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

San-ming Hui  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1617

/San-ming Hui/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1617